Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) A set of zinc finger polypeptide libraries which encode overlapping zinc finger polypeptides, according to claim 1, wherein the polypeptides may he assembled after selection to form a multifinger zinc finger polypeptide.

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

6. (Amended) A library according to claim 1, wherein the randomised positions are selected from positions -1, 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

7. (Amended) A library according to claim 1, wherein the randomisation of amino acid residues is restricted such that the following amino acids may appear at the given positions:

| Position | Possible Amino Acids |
|---|---|
| -1 | R, Q, H, N, D, A, T |
| 1 | S, R, K, N |
| 2 | D. A, R, Q, H, K, S, N |
| 3 | H, N, S, T, V, A, D |
| 5 | I, T, K |
| 6 | R, Q, V, A, E K, N, T |

Please amend claim 10 as follows:

10. (Amended) A library according to claim 1, wherein each zinc finger has the general primary structure

(A) $X^a$ C $X_{2-4}$ C $X_{2-3}$ F $X^c$ X X X X L X X H X X $X^b$ H – linker (SEQ ID NO:5)

-1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Claim 12 was amended as follows:

12. (Amended) A library according to claim 10 wherein $X_{2-4}$ is selected from any one of: S-X, E-X, K-X, T-X, P-X and R-X.

Claim 13 was amended as follows:

13. (Amended) A library according to claim 10 wherein $X^b$ is T or I.

Claim 14 was amended as follows:

14. (Amended) A library according to claim 10 wherein $X_{2-3}$ is G-K-A, G-K-C, G-K-S, G-K-G, M-R-N or M-R.

Claim 15 was amended as follows:

15. (Amended) A library according to claim 10 wherein the linker is T-G-E-K (SEQ ID NO:6) or T-G-E-K-P(SEQ ID NO:7).

Claim 16 was amended as follows:

16. (Amended) A library according to claim 10 wherein position +9 is R or K.

Claim 17 was amended as follows:

17. (Amended) A library according to claim 10 wherein positions +1, +S and +8 are not occupied by any one of the hydrophobic amino acids, F, W or Y.

Claim 19 was amended as follows:

19. (Amended) A method for preparing a library of nucleic acid binding proteins of the Cys2-His2 zinc finger class capable of binding to a target nucleic acid sequence, comprising the steps of:

a) selecting a model zinc finger polypeptide from the group' consisting of naturally occurring zinc finger polypeptides and consensus zinc finger polypeptides; and

b) randomising more than one finger therein according to claim 1 to 9.

Claim 23 was amended as follows:

23. (Amended) A method for determining the presence of a target nucleic acid molecule, comprising the steps of:

a) preparing a nucleic acid binding protein by the method of claim 1 which is specific for the target nucleic acid molecule;

b) exposing a test system comprising the target nucleic acid molecule to the nucleic acid binding protein under conditions which promote binding; and removing any nucleic acid binding protein which remains unbound;

c) detecting the presence of the nucleic acid binding protein in the test system.

Claim 25 was amended as follows:

25. (Amended) A method according to claim 23 wherein the , nucleic acid binding protein, in use, is displayed on the surface of a filamentous bacteriophage and the presence of the nucleic acid binding protein is detected by detecting the bacteriophage or a component thereof.